

MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 20, 2023

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:07 a.m., April 20, 2023, at the Chocolay Township Fire Hall.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)
George Patrick, City of Marquette
Jim Compton, City of Marquette
Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette

ABSENT Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township

OTHERS Dan Johnston, City of Marquette
Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Melissa Erkkila, City of Marquette
Mary Schlicht, City Marquette

AGENDA It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by J. Compton to approve the agenda. Approved 4-0.

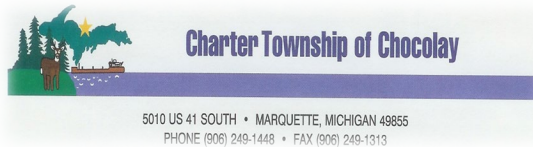
MINUTES It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by J. Compton to approve the March 2, 2023, meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by J. Compton to approve the March 14, 2023, special meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report.

M. Schlicht stated all the audit adjustments have been made. This is all the revenue being accounted for. The expenditures are a little ahead of revenue due to the billing process but will catch up. M. Schlicht stated she will begin putting the balance sheet information on the report since it became important as we reviewed the reserve account for the upcoming project. The FY22 audit went through fine, and she would like to invite Michael Greutz next month to give the audit report. Then we will begin the FY24 budget process.



OPERATIONS REPORT

D. Johnston, City of Marquette, presented the Operations Report.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- **PERMIT COMPLIANCE:** No violations occurred during the months of February or March.

PLANT NOTES:

- Staff continues weekly COVID-19 tracing sampling for NMU from the WWTP's influent, our four major lift stations, and from the sewer leaving the Marquette Branch Prison.
- We are once again at full strength staffing-wise with the addition of Adam Kiddle. He comes to us with a lot of environmental and treatment expertise, and I am pleased to have him as a member of our team.
- Kraft was on site to install new cylinder heads on CoGen #1. This repair was not unexpected and needs to be completed at regular intervals.
- Kraft also performed routine maintenance on CoGen #2.
- I have been experimenting with programming changes to the controls for both CoGen units in an effort to prevent unnecessary downtime that can occur when the gas skid fails to start up on its own. These events typically occur after normal working hours, and there have been many instances where a CoGen unit would shut down and stay off all night long...which is not a desirable situation.
- We ran out of room to store biosolids cake around mid-March. We are managing to get by with transferring liquid biosolids to our storage tanks and decanting from the #3 Digester. Springtime and the lifting of weight restrictions cannot come too soon.
- Staff performed repairs to the refrigeration unit on our Influent Sampler.
- Work continues on the upgrade of our fire alarm system.
- JCI was on site to perform annual boiler inspections/tuning on all four of our boilers.
- I diagnosed a shorted "ON" indicator lamp as the cause of a blown fuse for the control panel of our #3 sodium aluminate metering pump. I ordered and installed a replacement lamp assembly.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR FEBRUARY 2023

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	2,400	\$336.00
UPS	5,500	\$770.00
LS&I	30,000	\$4,200.00
RMS	6,700	\$938.00
Wisconsin Electric	16,000	\$640.00
Tunnel Vision	1 yd ³	\$200.00
Grand Totals	60,600	\$7,084.00

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR MARCH 2023



Charter Township of Chocolay

5010 US 41 SOUTH • MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855
PHONE (906) 249-1448 • FAX (906) 249-1313



Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	3,500	\$490.00
UPS	15,000	\$2,100.00
LS&I	26,700	\$3,738.00
Wisconsin Electric	63,500	\$2,540.00
Grand Totals	108,700	\$8,868.00

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

- Preventive Maintenance Work Orders: staff continues to perform routine maintenance tasks. I continue to create work orders that have not been created since we began using Lucy.

NEW BUSINESS

- **MJ VanDamme Biosolids Hauling Contract:** Mark O'Neill stated MJ VanDamme is the only vendor in the area with the equipment and expertise to haul the biosolids and apply it. MJ VanDamme can apply biosolids at Cleveland Cliffs and haul/apply cake to area farms, including theirs. They also coordinate with local farmers and the Escanaba paper mill's applications. The pricing is a 30% increase, but we will not be paying a 12% fuel surcharge as we did in the past. M. O'Neill stated we spend approximately \$150,000 a year on biosolids hauling. Our only other option would be to purchase a truck and have an employee haul it, which would be more expensive. The goal is to take the spring and fall applications to the farmer and the summer application to Cleveland Cliffs. It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by J. Compton to approve the MJ VanDamme contract. Approved 4-0.
- **Wet Weather Plan:** As a background, M. O'Neill stated in 2018 a rainstorm occurred. Water infiltrated the collection system and washed out the plant on a massive scale which occurred twice in the fall. Then during the spring melt, the river rose high enough that it exceeded the design elevation of the secondary clarifiers. At that time, EGLE required a Wet Weather Plan to be initiated. A gate valve was installed to stop the flow to the river when needed and then pump water around it out to the river. A new pump was purchased this year for this purpose. This year's snow melt required staff to close the gate valve and begin running pumps. The new pump did have a regeneration hiccup that is being addressed by the manufacturer but is running again. Water infiltration in the system is normal this time of year. J. Compton stated the City staff as a whole have been dedicated to correct as many system issues they find immediately to help eliminate that. M. O'Neill says the plant has noticed the effort over the years.
- **Draft Permit:** M. O'Neill stated he received our draft permit from EGLE. A ph regulation change may cause future issues. The current ph allowed into the river is between 6-9 and they want to change it to 6.5 – 9 which will be a problem for us. We have had approximately six times in the last three years where we were at a 6.4. The problem is we nitrify which uses up alkalinity and Lake Superior is naturally low in alkalinity. M. O'Neill stated he has challenged it and is requesting they prove why it is necessary. The worst-case scenario is



Charter Township of Chocolay

5010 US 41 SOUTH • MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855
PHONE (800) 249-1448 • FAX (906) 249-1313



we will have to install a chemical feed. One good item coming from the new permit is the toxicity testing requirement. We currently ship two gallons of water, three days in one week, every three months and ship them to Detroit. They take our water and add fish to it. They monitor the survival and reproduction of the fish. The testing is approximately \$1,200 with shipping costs of \$150 per sample. If shipping is lost or delayed, the test needs to be completely redone. The new permit is now changing that to only four events during the permit cycle. A round table discussion is occurring in three weeks to discuss this topic at the Wastewater Conference.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling:** M. O'Neill stated the project was approved by the Commission. Staff is currently working with EGLE and the Treasury Department to finalize necessary paperwork and then we should receive a notice to proceed. Miron Construction will be coming to the plant in May for a tour and to assess the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public attended.

BOARD COMMENT

- S. Hobbins stated he admires how well run the plant is.
- B. Johnson stated the Casino is moving forward with a 78-room hotel and pool house. They will begin construction this summer and complete it sometime next year. The reservation lift station should be up and running in June. Then they will begin connecting all the houses. This will add about 40 connections. Next month, Chocolay Township will begin televising their entire system except the recently constructed M-28 sanitary lines. They will then create an asset management plan. B. Johnson believes they have a lot of infiltration. They will also begin working on their manhole rehabilitations. B. Johnson thanked D. Johnston for the tour of the plant he and their new employee received.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.



Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila